

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHZ COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Rob Larson, Chair
Keith Mullen, Vice-chair
Paul Wiley, Secretary

Thursday ~ April 12, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
5195 SPECTRUM BOULEVARD, RENO, NEVADA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum established.

PRESENT: Bryan Boren – VA; Jeff Byrne – TMFPD; David Curtis – NAG; Sam Hicks – TMFPD; Karl Holden – WCSO; Dave Hunkup – RSIC; Nicole Lacap – RTAA; Rob Larson – Reno; Tracy Moore – WCSO; Keith Mullen – Sparks; Jim Whalen – NDOT; and Paul Wiley – Reno.

ABSENT: Bill Ames – WCSO; Ed Atwell – UNR; Lance Avansino – Steve Baker – TMWA; RSIC; Richard Burger – NDOT; Geoff Daforno – TMWA; Seth Daniels – NDOT; Jason Edmondson – Sparks; Andy Gebhardt – TMWA; Ray Guzman – RTAA; Jon Kelley – WCSO; Chris Ketring – TMFPD; Rafael Leal – VA; Anthony Masten – NAG; Tom Nelson – RTAA; Darrell Norman – VA; David Paulon – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Jason Reynolds – UNR; Ryan Sommers – TMFPD; and Kirt Warren – WCSO.

VACANT: Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy district Attorney, was also present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Robert Plant – NDOT, read the following into the record: SWIC Position filled: State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management announces Melissa Friend as the new Emergency Management Programs Manager and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Melissa joins DEM from the Nevada Division of Forestry.

1. Nevada CORE systems (NCORE) and the Nevada Shared Radio system
a. DEM is in the process of testing all of the cross band repeater locations statewide and is estimated completion statewide within the next 120 days

2. State Emergency Communications Center capabilities

a. NDEM will be upgrading the existing radio equipment located at the Governor's annex in Carson City and the Washoe County REOC to the new generation of Project 25 (P25) radios. These radios are specific to having the State Emergency Operations Center channels programmed for direct communications to the Emergency Operations Center / Emergency Communications Center in Carson City. It has been a successful communications project and NDEM will be deploying DEM 800 MHz Radios to the Clark County and City of Las Vegas Emergency operations Centers, then expand out to all counties emergency communications centers.

Weekly radio test nets will be scheduled and conducted to ensure emergency communications exist statewide in the event of an internet, cellular, or phone failure.

3. NDEM Emergency communications center is upgrading the Emergency Alert System (EAS) from the current legacy hardware to the SAGE ENDEC. The equipment will be relocated from the NHP server room and into the State Emergency Communications Center inside the EOC. Working with Credentialed Broadcast engineers to get the new unit online as well as developing a future direct communications backchannel to the ECC.

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4. NAWAS

a. NDEM Emergency Communications working with NHP Dispatch will be initiating the Wednesday morning polling checking statewide that NHP conducts twice daily.

5. ARES/RACES

a. The State Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service volunteers continue to provide a solid backbone of emergency communications from the Amateur Radio perspective. NDEM recently installed a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) radio in the ECC and is involved in the weekly test nets on both analog and digital communications platforms.

6. DHS/FEMA

a. Emergency Management is meeting with Office of Emergency Communications Tom Lawless, FEMA Region IX Coordinator to discuss Communications and begin work on updating the Statewide interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP) for 2018/2019

3. **JANUARY 18, 2018 MINUTES** [For possible action]

It was moved by Keith Mullen, seconded by David Curtis, to approve the January 18, 2018, minutes, as submitted.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **WINTER 2017 RADIO TOWERS DAMAGE STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on repair of 2017 winter damage to radio towers caused by the severe weather experienced at the WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) Slide Mountain and Peavine Sites.*

Shawn Tayler - Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that there is still about 100 yards of drifted snow barring access to the Peavine site and that Slide Mountain towers have been certified safe as repairs have been made to the 80 foot level. However there is another 40-feet that needs to be address once access to the site is open.

5. **LID (Logical Identification Number) STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An ongoing review and discussion on the issue of limited LID availability on the Washoe County Regional Communication System.* Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator

Shawn Taylor – Regional Communications Coordinator, noted that there are only seven LID's currently available and that three are open to agency's having a critical need. Mr. Tayler explained discussions with NV Energy indicate that they may be able to release unused LIDs.

6. **SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that the system is operating within specifications and that the alignment of the Lake Tahoe and Metro Simulcast systems had been completed in March (2018). Staff will go back within the next few weeks to further assess any

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addition winter damage. The microwave cutover is in a holding pattern pending receipt of additional hardware. Mr. Tayler pointed out that the transfer of Simulcast to the IP network had been completed and appears to be functioning properly.

7. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion on the progress of Washoe County, NDOT and NV Energy on radio system design and drafting of a contract for the P25 Nevada Shared Radio System.*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, outlined the ongoing process of replacing the existing EDACS system with the P=25 in conjunction with NDOT, NV Energy and Harris Communications. It is thought that the finalization of site locations, final design and contract will be completed in the next several months. Mr. Korbolic pointed out that while Washoe County will have a separate contract with Harris Communications Washoe County will not be a separate system.

8. NEVADA SHARED RADIO SYSTEM DESIGN - POOR COVERAGE AREAS AND NEW SITES [For discussion only] – *A review and discussion of poor radio coverage areas and new sites to address the poor coverage areas.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, as noted previously there are a number of areas where calls for services and radio coverage is poor due to the design of the current system that had not anticipated growth in those areas. Mr. Tayler noted that the City of Reno will have a need for additional coverage as the Stone Gate project in the Cold Springs area is developed.

Quinn Korbolic drew attention to the April 20, 2018, 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee meeting and encouraged members to discuss potential coverage issues with their respective JOC members as coverage will need to be addressed as future development occurs.

During a brief discussion it was noted that there are other areas of limited coverage in the Galena and Summit Mall areas. It was noted that trees in those areas affect radio communications. Other discussion focused on Spanish Springs and the Pyramid Highway as well as Golden Eagle which is located in a horseshoe of mountains that limit coverage. It was noted that Charter Communications had removed a tower from a parcel and that it is unknown if that parcel is still available. Discussion then noted concerns about communications along Red Rock Road as various booster options for Vhf and 800 MHz had not worked as well as hoped for. It was noted that Red Rock is high on the list of potential future projects.

9. NSRS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT [For possible action] - *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee (JOC) appoint Shawn Tayler or another qualified individual as Washoe County's representative on the Nevada Shared Radio System Technical Advisory Committee (NSRS TAC).*

Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services, as part of the governance structure explained that part of the agreement with NDOT and NvEnergy included a TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) that has three members with one from each of the partner agencies. Staff is recommending that Shawn Tayler or other qualified individual be appointed as the Washoe County representative on the TAC.

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It was moved by Dave Hunkup, seconded by Karl Holden, to recommend that the 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee appoint Shawn Tayler to serve on the NSRS TAC.

Shawn Tayler stated that he would accept the appointment.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled at 2:00 p.m., June 21, 2018.*

No new agenda items identified.

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Chair Larson noted the sound quality issues as the system transitions to the digital system.

Tracy Moore suggested an agenda item to address the sound quality issue and what to expect as the system moves to digital.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, commented that this matter should have been covered under item 10 as public comment does not provide for additional public comment.

Chair Larson reopened agenda item 10.

- 10. 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled at 2:00 p.m., June 21, 2018.*

Tracy Moore noted that as the new technology is being tested users may experience a delay as the transmissions moves from the current analog system to the digital system. Mr. Moore pointed out that this is not an indication that the digital system is not working but rather is a part of the conversion process from analog to digital.

Chair Larson reopened agenda item 11.

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Robert Plant – NDOT, noted that the site at USA Parkway and Painted Rock needs to be completed due to communications issues being experienced by Nevada Highway Patrol.

- 12. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

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Chair Larson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz USERS COMMITTEE IN SESSION ON July 19, 2018.